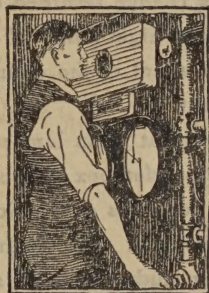


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NO. 79

LUMBER MOISTURE CHANGE IN BOX CAR NOT IMPORTANT



FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
MADISON, WISCONSIN

The accompanying diagram from the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory shows the moisture changes that took place in the lumber in various parts of the car while five carloads of Douglas fir clears were in transit from western Oregon to Chicago. Shipment was made in the relatively wet weather of late winter and early spring in box cars which were in good repair.

The average moisture change for the five cars of lumber was a gain of two-tenths of one per cent. The maximum moisture change recorded at any position in the cars was a gain of eight-tenths of one per cent. The average moisture content of the entire shipment on receipt was 8 per cent.

It is apparent that when lumber is shipped close piled in closed tight-roofed box cars the shipper may feel assured that it will reach its destination without serious loss or gain of moisture. The findings of the Forest Products Laboratory study which are summarized in the accompanying diagram would not be expected to hold, of course, for lumber shipped in open cars, or in box cars having leaky roofs.

*Photograph by Forest Products Laboratory,
U. S. Forest Service*

M. & S. F.

- 0.1%

+ 0.6%

+ 0.2%

+ 0.3%

+ 0.1%

0.0%

- 0.1%

+ 0.8%

+ 0.6%

+ 0.3%

0.0%

+ 0.4%

+ 0.5%

- 0.2%

- 0.2%

0.0%

+ 0.3%

+ 0.2%

